

MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

*Jackson, Miss., June 16, 1879.**President of County Board of Health:*

DEAR DOCTOR: While we know of no special cause for alarm now, still we cannot feel confident that we will not have another epidemic visitation this summer. I would, therefore, earnestly recommend that your Board prepare now to prevent the introduction of yellow fever into your county by drafting a quarantine ordinance and getting your Board of Supervisors to adopt it, so that you could on short notice enforce it if it becomes necessary.

Any information received at this office, of the existence of yellow fever, will be promptly furnished you.

Section 2739, Revised Code of 1871, confers the power to establish quarantines on the Boards of Supervisors, but it occurs to me they could adopt an ordinance and authorize your Board to enforce it, and furnish you the necessary assistance to do so. The experience of last year fully demonstrated the efficiency of quarantines in preventing yellow fever, and it must be remembered that your county would be in danger of becoming infected, should only a few cases of the disease exist at some point with which you are in communication, before the disease has been declared epidemic. One person or a single package of goods from an infected household or locality might introduce the disease.

I make no suggestions as to the details of your Quarantine Ordinance, as I know your own judgment will dictate the measures to be adopted. Suffice it to say, that to be efficient a quarantine must necessarily be rigid and the rules inflexibly adhered to.

Please also call the attention of the authorities of the towns in your county to the importance of making the necessary preparations.

Very truly yours,

WIRT JOHNSTON, M. D.,

Secretary and Executive Officer of the State Board of Health, and Chief Health Officer of Mississippi.

